

Amendment
SN 09/126,884
Page 2 of 9

common time base indicated by periodically inserted time stamps, where N is an integer greater than one, said apparatus comprising:

a transport clock source;

a frequency divider for dividing a timing signal from said transport clock source into N timing signals;

N transport encoders coupled to said frequency divider for respectively receiving and encoding said N programs; and

a multiplexer, coupled to an output of said N transport encoders, for receiving and modifying packets associated with a desired time slot of one or more transport encoded program streams, said multiplexer producing a processed transport stream, wherein said processed transport stream includes respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream.

12. (two times amended) Apparatus for processing a received transport stream comprising a plurality of time slots for transporting therein a respective plurality of programs having a common time base indicated by periodically inserted time stamps, said apparatus comprising:

a transport clock source;

a frequency divider, for dividing a transport clock timing signal from said transport clock source into a plurality of timing signals; and

a plurality of encoders, each of said encoders coupled to said frequency divider for respectively receiving and encoding said plurality of programs to produce a respective encoded program stream, each of said encoded program streams being coupled to a switch via a respective buffer memory;

said switch selectively coupling program stream transport packets from said buffer memories for modifying packets associated with a desired time slot to produce a slotted transport stream, wherein said slotted transport stream includes respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream.